

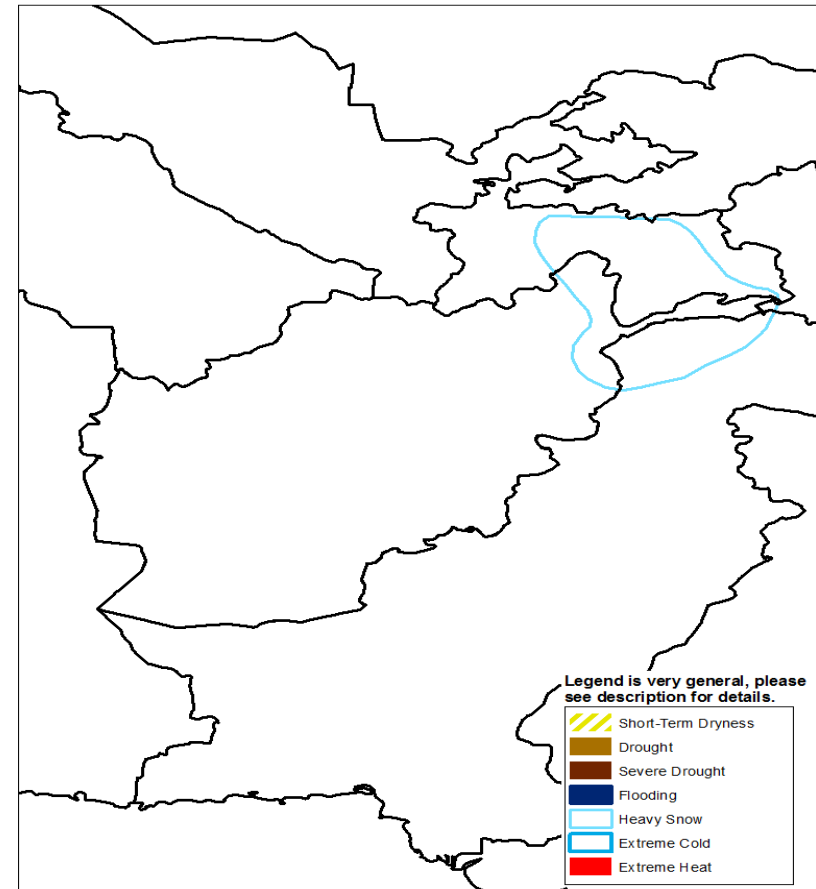
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET March 14 – March 20, 2012

Temperatures:

Below average temperatures have persisted across much of Afghanistan this winter. From March 1-10, the largest negative temperature anomalies (locally around 8°C) were observed over the central portions of the country. Smaller negative anomalies (4-8°C) occurred in the northeast. Elsewhere, near-normal temperatures were present. Temperatures are expected to be below normal during the beginning of the period after the passage of a cold front, though, temperatures should moderate thereafter. The passage of another cold front at the end of the observation period is expected to cause temperatures to fall. Localized areas in the central highlands and northeast mountains could observe minimum temperatures below -20°C during the beginning of the next week. However, the moderation in temperature should preclude the addition of an extreme cold hazard.

Precipitation

During the past week, light rain and high-elevation snow continued across the northern border of Afghanistan. However, conditions are expected to be wetter for the next week. Due to the passage of several low pressure systems to the north of Afghanistan, daily light to moderate rain/snow is expected during much of the next week across northern Afghanistan. While precipitation is expected to be moderate, heavier daily amounts of snow across higher elevations in the northeast could occur. Due to the chance for moderate (locally heavy) precipitation to occur through much of the week, a heavy snow polygon has been added across the northeast mountains.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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